

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 16, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, Police Lt. Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roy Sharp, 2109 10th Avenue, lives on a cul-de-sac. Sharp reported the cul-de-sac road needs maintenance. There are holes and the patchwork is in poor shape. The plow will tear up the remaining blacktop this winter. Sharp presented photos of the roadway.

Mayor Lee noted the date for the bucket brigade is November 28, not November 21 and will not interfere with the Hometown Holiday parade. Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) City Council Minutes of November 2, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$510,780.13
- C) Approve low bid for Burke Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$8445.00 for Demolition of 1411 Third Avenue
- D) Petition from Home of Hope to hold a bucket brigade on November 28, 2015

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Martin stated the petition for the bucket brigade is asking to be at corners outside of the downtown area which was approved by the Council. Alderman Elston made a motion to amend the approval of the bucket brigade petition to be limited to corners in the downtown area; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Voting on approval of consent agenda with the amendment to the bucket brigade petition: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring Saturday, November 28, 2015, as Small Business Saturday; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Main Street Director Janna Groharing appreciates the City recognizing Small Business Saturday. Alderman Wilen read the proclamation into the record.

Mayor Lee proceeded to Ordinance #2015-11-17 Providing for Collection of Sex Offender Registration and Renewal Fee while Manager Shumard reviewed the numbers for the Tax Levy Estimate. Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2015-11-17 Providing for Collection of Sex Offender Registration and Renewal Fee**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Chief Potthoff explained the fee is \$50 annually. There is no enforcement for non-payment but this ordinance should enable the City to collect through the Administrative Hearing process. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard stated the EAV for the City has increased by .12%, which is still below 2009 rates. Insurance costs have increased 14%, Fire Pension increased 47.55%, and Police Pension increased 43.93%. Manager Shumard is presenting the highest option of an 18.76% increase in case the state would reduce our funding or freeze property taxes. A tax levy increase over 5% necessitates a public hearing on December 7. Adjustments can be made to the tax levy prior to passage. The proposed tax increase on a \$100,000 house would be approximately \$10 per month. Mayor Lee stated that it is important to remember that the state system sets the rules for the Police and Fire Pensions. It is the City's obligation to make those payments or the State can take funding from the City to meet these obligations.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to approve the Tax Levy Estimate in the amount of \$4,349,149, an 18.76% increase, and set a hearing for Monday, December 7, 2015; seconded by Alderman Martin.

Alderman Martin asked if GASB68 would affect the numbers this much in future years. Manager Shumard stated mortality tables and 100% funding to the Pension Plans changed this year and caused the major increases. Increases in investments or deaths in pensioners are the primary ways to decrease contributions.

Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2015-11-27 Authorizing the Application to United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant Program (FY2016)**; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Manager Shumard stated the application was updated after a debriefing following the last application. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the reimbursement to Illinois American Water Company in the amount of \$141,785.55 per the agreement for reconstruction on West LeFevre Road; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Alderman Stauter asked if we would

continue working with the Water Company. Manager Shumard stated we would work with them on any occasion possible. Voting: Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Cook invited Council members to meet at the main station at 11:30 am to ride in the Holiday parade.

Janna Groharing invited everyone to partake in the Christmas Walk on Friday beginning at 5:00 pm downtown. Dale Park will be lit up and transformed into Christmas Central. Sights and Sounds activities will continue through December 7.

Manager Shumard reported that Second Street will be closed most of next week for work on Sixth and Eighth Avenues. Shumard also reported the roof was lost on the Lawrence Brothers building.

Alderman Martin encouraged residents to take advantage of the nice weather and clean up leaves from their yards, as well as curbs and gutters.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone that December 11 will be the last day for yard waste pick-up. She reminded everyone that the Festival of Trees is underway at the Mall this year. Elston asked about the utility tax. Manager Shumard stated Attorney Coplan is going to draft an ordinance for the utility tax. Alderman Elston asked the status of the railroad issue on Eighth Avenue. Manager Shumard stated they are supportive of anything we plan to do and they have no concerns.

Alderman Stauter noted the cash mob event at the Mall today.

Alderman Schuchard asked about the fence at First Street with the Water Company. Mayor Lee stated that the Water Company and the Park District have reached an agreement. The fence will be coming down.

Mayor Lee reported that he and Manager Shumard recently met with Waste Management. Waste Management was receptive to the discussions of moving garbage pick-up from the alleys to the streets and bulk waste sticker improvements. The call center problems have been resolved.

Mayor Lee announced that a thank you note was received from the Elgin family. Lee thanked Public Works for their work on cleaning up the tree after the wind storm last week. Mayor Lee applauded Mike Wolber for his efforts in contacting veterans for the event at Kune's Auto Store for the commissioning of the USS Illinois.

Alderman Elston made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:36 to discuss termination of an employee as covered under subsection (2) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c);

seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays –None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:54 pm; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk